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AMENDMENT TO THE DRAWING

To better facilitate clarity and understanding of Applicants' proposed invention, Applicants have amended original Figure 1 of the Application. (See Replacement Sheet for Figure 1 included herewith.)

In Figure 1 as amended, numerical designation "18" has been added to collectively refer to the "Sensors" depicted therein. In adding such a numerical designation, Applicants respectfully maintain that no new matter has been introduced into Applicants' Application. Support for adding the numerical designation "18" in Figure 1 is particularly set forth in the first full paragraph on page 3 of the specification, wherein "a plurality of sensors" discussed in reference to Figure 1 are collectively designated as numeral "18."

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REMARKS

Examiner's comments in the Office Action marked "non-final" and dated June 6, 2005 have been carefully considered by Applicants. In view of such comments, Applicants have amended the claims as set forth herein. In particular, independent claims 11, 21, and 22 and also dependent claims 12, 18, 19, and 23 have all been amended to better highlight the patentable differences of Applicants' proposed invention as compared to the prior art cited and interpreted by Examiner in the Office Action. In making such amendments, Applicants maintain that no new matter has been introduced into the present Application. Furthermore, no more claims have been altogether canceled, and no entirely new claims have been added. Thus, claims 11, 12, 18, 19, and 21-23 remain pending in Applicants' present Application. It is Applicants' good faith belief that the pending claims, as presented herein, are both novel and non-obvious. Therefore, Applicants respectfully maintain that the pending claims now place the present Application in a condition for allowance and notice thereof is respectfully requested.

Double Patenting

In the Office Action, Examiner rejected independent claims 11, 21, and 22 and also dependent claims 12, 18, 19, and 23 as being unpatentable over claims 1 and 9 in United States Patent Number 6,370,233 (issued to Raymond W. Bennett III et al. on April 9, 2002) under the judicially created doctrine of impermissible obviousness-type double patenting. In response, Applicants are herewith filing an executed Terminal Disclaimer form in compliance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.321(c) to overcome Examiner's objection. (See executed form entitled "Terminal Disclaimer to Obviate a Double Patenting Rejection over a Prior Patent" included herewith.) Receipt and entry thereof is respectfully requested by Applicants.

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35 U.S.C. § 112

Also in the Office action, Examiner rejected dependent claim 23 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicants regard as their invention. In response, Applicants have amended dependent claim 23 as set forth hereinabove to facilitate clarity of the subject matter being claimed by Applicants in claim 23. In clarifying dependent claim 23 as such, Applicants now respectfully maintain that the inventive subject matter in claim 23 is set forth distinctly and with sufficient particularity for purposes of 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph. In view of such, Applicants respectfully request that Examiner's rejection of dependent claim 23 under 35 U.S.C. § 112 be withdrawn.

35 U.S.C. § 102(b)

Further in the Office Action, both independent claims 21 and 22 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated and therefore unpatentable over United States Patent Number 5,596,633, issued to Meier *et al.* on January 21, 1997 (hereinafter "Meier"). Applicants respectfully traverse each of these 35 U.S.C. § 102 rejections set forth in the Office Action in view of the claims as amended, for Applicants' invention as presently claimed herein is deemed novel in light of the prior art cited by Examiner.

In Applicants' independent claim 21 as amended, a security system comprising "a voice processing system ... having speech recognition functionality for processing verbal commands from a user so as to operate [the] security system" is specifically set forth and required. Meier does not disclose such a security system comprising a voice processing system having speech recognition functionality. Instead, Meier merely discloses a security device having an amplified microphone that transmits peripheral sounds to a remote recording device or security guard. (Meier, column 4, lines 10-25).

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In view of such, therefore, Applicants' respectfully maintain that the subject matter set forth in independent claim 21 is not anticipated by Meier and is therefore novel.

Furthermore, in Applicants' independent claim 22 as amended, a method of providing call management functionality for a security system is set forth, wherein the method particularly includes and requires the step of "utilizing a voice processing system having speaker verification functionality to identify a user." Meier does not disclose such a method including such a step. Instead, as mentioned above, Meier merely discloses a security device having an amplified microphone that transmits peripheral sounds to a remote recording device or security guard. (Meier, column 4, lines 10-25). In view of such, therefore, Applicants' respectfully maintain that the subject matter set forth in independent claim 22 is not anticipated by Meier and is therefore novel.

35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

In the Office Action, independent claim 11 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious and therefore unpatentable over United States Patent Number 5,621,662, issued to Humphries *et al.* on April 15, 1997 (hereinafter "Humphries"), in view of United States Patent Number 3,793,487, issued to Kilby on February 19, 1974 (hereinafter "Kilby"). In addition, dependent claim 12 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious and therefore unpatentable over United States Patent Number 5,621,662 (Humphries), in view of United States Patent Number 3,793,487 (Kilby), and in further view of United States Patent Number 5,166,972, issued to Smith on November 24, 1992 (hereinafter "Smith"). Also, dependent claim 18 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious and therefore unpatentable over United States Patent Number 5,596,633 (Meier) in view of United States Patent Number 5,901,211, issued to Dean *et al.* on May 4, 1999 (hereinafter "Dean"). Furthermore, dependent claim 19 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious and therefore unpatentable over United States Patent Number 5,596,633 (Meier) in view of United States Patent Number 4,578,540, issued to Borg *et al.* on March 25, 1986

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(hereinafter "Borg"). Lastly, dependent claim 23 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious and therefore unpatentable over United States Patent Number 5,596,633 (Meier) in view of United States Patent Number 5,724,411, issued to Eisdorfer *et al.* on March 3, 1998 (hereinafter "Eisdorfer"). Applicants respectfully traverse each of these 35 U.S.C. § 103 rejections set forth in the Office Action in view of the claims as amended, for Applicants' invention as presently claimed is deemed not merely an obvious improvement over the prior art cited by Examiner.

With general regard to Examiner's rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103, Applicants respectfully maintain that rejection for obviousness must be based upon objective evidence of record and requires that particular findings be made as to why a skilled artisan with no knowledge of the claimed invention would have selected the specific components for combination in the manner claimed. Thus, in order for any prior art references themselves to be validly combined for use in a prior art obviousness rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a), the references themselves, or some other piece of prior art, must suggest that they be combined. In re Sernaker, 217 U.S.P.Q. 1, 6 (C.A.F.C. 1983). That is, the suggestion to combine the references must not come from the Applicants' proposed invention itself. Orthopedic Equipment Co. v. United States, 217 U.S.P.Q. 193, 199 (C.A.F.C. 1983). In sum, in order to establish a *prima facie* case of obviousness, it is necessary to present evidence, in the form of some teaching, suggestion, incentive, or inference in the applied prior art, or in the form of generally available knowledge, that one having ordinary skill in the art would have been led to combine the relevant teachings of the applied references in the proposed manner to arrive at the claimed invention. Ex parte Levengood, 28 U.S.P.Q.(2d) 1300 (P.T.O.B.A.&I. 1993).

In Applicants' independent claim 11 as amended, a method of providing call management functionality for a security system is set forth, wherein the method particularly includes and requires the step of "utilizing a voice processing system having speech recognition functionality to process a verbal command from a user." Humphries and Kilby, either individually or in combination with each other, do not teach such a

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method including such a step. In view of such, therefore, Applicants' respectfully maintain that the combination of Humphries and Kilby does not render obvious Applicants' invention as presently claimed in independent claim 11.

In Applicants' claim 12 as amended and dependent on independent claim 11, a method of providing call management functionality for a security system is set forth, wherein the method particularly includes and requires the step of "utilizing a voice processing system having speech recognition functionality to process a verbal command from a user." Humphries, Kilby, and Smith, either individually or in combination with each other, do not teach such a method including such a step. In view of such, therefore, Applicants' respectfully maintain that the combination of Humphries, Kilby, and Smith does not render obvious Applicants' invention as presently claimed in dependent claim 12.

In Applicants' claim 18 as amended and dependent on independent claim 22, a method of providing call management functionality for a security system is set forth, wherein the method particularly includes and requires the step of "utilizing a voice processing system having speaker verification functionality to identify a user." Meier and Dean, either individually or in combination with each other, do not teach such a method including such a step. In view of such, therefore, Applicants' respectfully maintain that the combination of Meier and Dean does not render obvious Applicants' invention as presently claimed in dependent claim 18.

In Applicants' claim 19 as amended and dependent on independent claim 22, a method of providing call management functionality for a security system is set forth, wherein the method particularly includes and requires the step of "utilizing a voice processing system having speaker verification functionality to identify a user." Meier and Borg, either individually or in combination with each other, do not teach such a method including such a step. Instead, for example, Borg merely teaches a device for facilitating user entry that includes "voice recognition circuitry" for data input. (Borg, column 6, lines 4-29). The voice recognition circuitry taught by Borg is not utilized to

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process speech in order to positively verify the identity of a user. In view of such, therefore, Applicants' respectfully maintain that the combination of Meier and Borg does not render obvious Applicants' invention as presently claimed in dependent claim 19.

Lastly, in Applicants' claim 23 as amended and dependent on independent claim 22, a method of providing call management functionality for a security system is set forth, wherein the method particularly includes and requires the step of "utilizing a voice processing system having speaker verification functionality to identify a user." Meier and Eisdorfer, either individually or in combination with each other, do not teach such a method including such a step. In view of such, therefore, Applicants' respectfully maintain that the combination of Meier and Eisdorfer does not render obvious Applicants' invention as presently claimed in dependent claim 23.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing remarks, Applicants respectfully submit that independent claims 11, 21, and 22, as well as claims 12, 18, 19, and 23 dependent thereon, are both novel and non-obvious with respect to the disclosures and teachings of Meier, Humphries, Kilby, Smith, Dean, Borg, and Eisdorfer. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request that Examiner's rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) and 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) be withdrawn and that a Notice of Allowance be issued therefor.

Should Examiner have any questions with respect to any matter now of record, Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' undersigned attorney at (248) 223-9500.

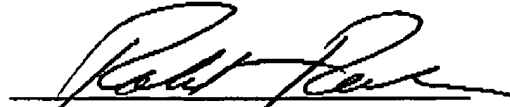
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Respectfully submitted,

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